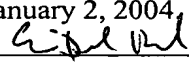


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Ishikawa et al.)	Express Mailing Certification Under 37 CFR
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Serial No: Unassigned (Continuation of)	
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Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned)	January 2, 2004,
)	
Examiner: Not yet assigned)	Ernie Del Real
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment in the above-identified patent application. Please amend the application as follows before calculating the filing fee and before examination on the merits:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.